

State and Local Tools

Introduction

There are a wide variety of state programs available to local communities, nonprofits and other groups to assist them in reaching their environmental goals. More and more communities are becoming dependent on state rather than federal funding to meet their critical environmental needs. Many communities are leveraging their limited resources through innovative local efforts, including new volunteer programs. However, they are still facing serious problems that cannot be resolved using federal resources or local funds alone. Consequently, they continue to seek assistance from their state governments to help them.

State governments are becoming increasingly more responsive to the needs of local communities. Many use a wide variety of creative measures to assist local communities in attaining their environmental finance goals. This is a response to voices coming from the local level asking the states for help, based upon a realization that federal funding for many state and community environmental programs is decreasing each year. Federal government programs and other national efforts are noteworthy and indispensable for state and local governments. However, they do not come close to meeting all of their needs.

This section of the Guidebook provides communities with information regarding what financial resources are available to them at the state level. In an effort to achieve equal geographical representation, we have included at least one state financial tool from each Region of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Many states not represented in this Guidebook have similar tools to the ones described in the Guidebook, and these tools are often described on the Websites of their environmental offices. The Website for every U.S. State environmental office can be accessed through the Environmental Council of the States Website at <http://www.ecos.org/section/states>. Additional information on state financial tools can be accessed through the Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy at <http://www.dsireusa.org/>.

The state programs showcased in this section do not necessarily represent the “best” programs of the states. They represent a sample of what is available. However, every effort has been made to capture creative and innovative state programs. By highlighting some of the more creative programs, we hope this section of the Guidebook can not only serve local communities seeking help, but also assist state governments in researching new and different approaches to solving environmental problems. Many different programs are shown that could serve as models for other states to emulate. Additionally, there are many creative ideas and programs portrayed that could potentially be incorporated at the federal level.

The growing pressure created by reduced federal funding in some areas has stimulated a lot of creativity and innovation on the part of states. Many of the most exciting and effective environmental ideas are incorporated at the state level. State governments are very close to the environmental problems they are required to address and are exceptionally aware of what does and does not work. State and local governments are increasingly using their own funds, or a combination of their own funds in union with other funding sources, to get their projects off the ground.

The programs presented in this section are primarily funded through state resources - not federal funds. However, in some cases, state programs are presented that are funded and implemented through a myriad of sources - state funds, foundations, federal funds, tax incentives, volunteer action, etc. Many states are providing effective “integrated” programs that offer communities several forms of assistance through one single state office - loans, grants, circuit-riders, assistance from professionals, publications etc. If one form of assistance does not help the community, another probably will.

Many state offices work with applicants from the beginning of their projects to the end, helping them to find financial assistance even if they do not qualify for the programs offered through the state. For some states, their greatest concern is not only to have “something” available to communities, but also to work with all their communities in a partnership until the environmental problem is solved or the project is off the ground, completed, and self-sustainable.

List of State and Local Tools

1. Net Metering
2. Solar 4R Schools Program
3. Renewable Energy Credits
4. State Conservation Tax Credits
5. State Energy Efficiency Tax Incentives
6. Unit-Based Pricing for Solid Waste Collection
7. Utility Rebate Programs
8. State of California: Electronic Waste Recycling Fee
9. State of Colorado: Easement Program
10. State of Maryland: Bay Restoration Fund
11. State of Minnesota: Capital Assistance Program
12. State of Montana: Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Program
13. State of Nebraska: Illegal Dumpsite Cleanup Program
14. State of Nevada: Financial Assistance for Drinking Water Systems Program
15. State of New Mexico: Clean Energy Grants Program
16. State of New York: Green Building Tax Credit
17. State of North Carolina: Clean Water Management Trust Fund
18. State of Ohio: Water Pollution Control Loan Fund
19. State of Oregon: Truck Engine Tax Credit
20. State of Pennsylvania: Growing Greener Program
21. State of Rhode Island: Aqua Fund

Net Metering

Description: Net metering creates a financial incentive for utility customers to invest in power generation utilizing renewable resources. Net metering allows homeowners to receive the full retail value of the electricity that their renewable energy systems generate. Using net metering, homeowners with renewable energy systems, such as windmills and solar photovoltaics, can offset their electric bills with any excess electricity they produce. However, net metering is only available in states with net metering laws. In states without net metering laws, utilities are still required under federal law (18 CFR Part 292) to purchase excess electricity generated by their customers using small and renewable systems, but only at the wholesale price, which is much lower than the retail price.

Reference for Further Information: American Wind Energy Association Website: <http://www.awea.org/faq/netbdef.html>. U.S. Department of Energy Website: http://www.eere.energy.gov/solar/net_metering.html and <http://www.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/markets/netmetering.shtml>. Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy (DSIRE) Website: <http://www.dsireusa.org/>.

Solar 4R Schools Program

Description: The Solar 4R Schools Program is an initiative of the Bonneville Environmental Foundation, providing grants for the installation of 1.1 kW demonstration solar and data acquisition systems in middle and high schools in the Pacific Northwest. The Program is intended specifically for schools interested in increasing the visibility of renewable energy sources. Successful projects pursuant to the Program's goals offer aggressive education and outreach plans in an attempt to overcome barriers to widespread adoption of photovoltaics. Grants are awarded year-round in accordance with project needs and schedules. Any middle or high school located in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, or Montana may submit a Letter of Enquiry to the Bonneville Environmental Foundation describing a proposed renewable energy project and requesting funding for it.

Reference for Further Information: Bonneville Environmental Foundation Website: <http://www.b-e-f.org/grants/solar.shtm>. The Proposal Guidelines and Letter of Enquiry form are available for downloading on the Website. Letters of Enquiry should be e-mailed to info@b-e-f.org. All other correspondence should be mailed to: Renewable Energy Programs, Bonneville Environmental Foundation, 133 SW 2nd Ave., Suite 410; Portland, OR; 97204.

Renewable Energy Credits

Description: Renewable Energy Credits, or “Credits,” are tradable certificates of proof, with each Credit verifying that one kilowatt-hour (kWh) of electricity has been generated by a renewable energy source. Credits are a separate commodity from the power itself. The Credits are used to fulfill requirements under state Renewables Portfolio Standards (RPS’s). Each state with an RPS has a requirement that a minimum percentage of renewable energy be included in the portfolio of electricity sources distributed to customers within state boundaries. That percentage is often increased each year. For the purposes of RPS’s, what qualifies as renewable energy varies from state to state, but generally includes solar thermal electric, photovoltaics, wind, biomass, hydroelectric, geothermal electric, tidal energy, wave energy, ocean thermal, and fuel cells. The renewable energy markets created by the use of Renewables Portfolio Standards and Credits make possible long-term contracts and financing for industries generating power from renewable energy sources.

Reference for Further Information: Wind Energy and Energy Policy Website: <http://www.awea.org/policy/rpsbrief.html>. For information on the RPS’s of specific states, see <http://www.dsireusa.org/> and look for “Renewables Portfolio Standard” under “Rules, Regulations, and Policy.”

State Conservation Tax Credits

Description: Through state conservation tax credits, landowners are allowed to deduct credits from their income for tax purposes if they donate land to public or nonprofit entities for conservation. A growing number of states throughout the U.S. offer these tax credits. These credits are frequently used for individual and/or corporate income taxes. The types of land donations eligible for state conservation tax credits include easements, fee interests, and water rights transfers. These land donations are a very effective way of protecting open space, particularly if the land becomes state conservation land, which is often protected from eminent domain purchases. The extent of the conservation benefits from each land donation is, however, limited by how well the new landowner acts as a steward for it. For this reason, the person donating the land will often establish a written agreement with the new landowner preventing the land from being sold again and specifying how it can and cannot be used.

Reference for Further Information: State Environmental Resource Center Website: <http://www.serconline.org/conservationTaxIncentives/stateactivity.html>, Phone: 608-252-9800, E-mail: info@serconline.org. For definitions of easements and fee interests see <http://teachmefinance.com>, click on “financial terms,” and use the search feature.

State Energy Efficiency Tax Incentives

Description: Many U.S. states offer tax incentives to encourage the use of energy efficient appliances, or to promote energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy use in homes and businesses. These tax incentives include income tax deductions and subtractions, sales tax exemptions, and property tax exemptions. Many states offering tax incentives for the purchase of energy efficient appliances require that the appliances be certified under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Energy Star Program.

Tax credits for energy efficiency improvements in buildings often require third party Home Energy Rating Systems (HERS) ratings, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Ratings, or other similar energy efficiency ratings. A HERS rating is an assessment of the energy efficiency of a home as compared to a computer-simulated reference house. LEED provides a complete framework for assessing building performance and meeting sustainability goals including energy efficiency and water savings.

Reference for Further Information: State Environmental Resource Center Website: <http://www.serconline.org/energytaxincentives.html>. Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy Website: <http://www.dsireusa.org/>. Energy Star Program Website: <http://www.energystar.gov/>, information about HERS ratings under “New Homes.” The U.S. Green Building Council Website, <http://www.usgbc.org/>, has information about LEED ratings.

Unit-Based Pricing for Solid Waste Collection

Description: Unit-based pricing is a system in which residents pay for municipal solid waste management services per unit of waste collected rather than through a fixed fee or property taxes. It is also known as variable rate pricing, user pay, or pay-as-you-throw. Communities with unit-based pricing programs report great increases in recycling and reductions in waste, due primarily to the waste reduction incentive created by the pricing structure. Examples of different types of unit-based pricing for solid waste collection include:

- 1.) Pre-paid bag: Households purchase official, standard-sized trash bags. Only garbage in these official marked bags is collected.
- 2.) Pre-paid tag/sticker: Households purchase official tags or stickers. The charge covers a specific size, or sizes of, containers. Only garbage containers marked with the tags or stickers are collected.
- 3.) Weight-based system: Each household pays a set fee per pound of garbage collected.

Reference for Further Information: See the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) Website at: <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/payt/intro.htm>. Also see the “contact us” section of OSWER’s Website at: <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/comments.htm>.

Utility Rebate Programs

Description: In many locations throughout the United States, local electric utilities offer rebate programs for the purchase of products and installations that reduce energy consumption by businesses and industry, as well as by residential users. Utilities often fund these programs by charging an “energy conservation charge” on the bills of utility customers. These charges are generally non-taxable. The most common of these utility rebates is for the purchase of solar photovoltaic systems. A number of utilities also offer rebates for investments in solar water heaters, energy efficient appliances, air conditioners, wind energy systems, various retrofits to improve the energy efficiency of buildings, and solar thermal and geothermal heat pump systems, among other things.

Reference for Further Information: See the Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy (DSIRE) Website at <http://www.dsireusa.org/> and click on individual states for more information on utility rebate programs offered throughout the U.S. and in the U.S. territories.

State of California: Electronic Waste Recycling Fee

Description: The California Electronic Waste Recycling Fee law requires retailers to collect a fee when they sell certain video display devices to consumers. It is authorized under California’s Electronic Waste Recycling Act of 2003, which was signed into law on September 24, 2003, and amended by SB 50 on September 29, 2004. The fee was established to fund a program for consumers and the public to return, recycle and ensure the safe and environmentally sound disposal of video display devices, reducing the amount of hazardous waste going into landfills over time. The retailer must collect the fee for each sale of a Covered Electronic Device (CED) in a store, by mail order, or over the Internet. CEDs include computer monitors and televisions, which are hazardous waste when discarded. The fee ranges from \$6.00 to \$10.00 per CED sale. Retailers are permitted to retain three percent of the fees they collect.

Reference for Further Information: See the State of California Website at <http://www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/ewfaqsgen.htm>. Contact: The California Board of Equalization at 800-400-7115, or via an online form at <http://www.boe.ca.gov/info/contact.htm>. California’s Electronic Waste Recycling Act of 2003 is in Stats. 2003, chapter 526 - SB 20, and it is amended by SB 50 (Stats. 2004, chapter 863).

State of Colorado: Conservation Easement Tax Credit Program

Description: Established in 2001, the Colorado Conservation Easement Tax Credit Program allows landowners who donate conservation easements on their land to receive credits on their Colorado state income taxes. The Colorado Conservation Trust (CCT) recruits buyers of the credits, generates positive press coverage for the program, maintains quality control, and works with credit buyers to direct their tax savings towards conservation projects. To receive the tax credit, a landowner must place a conservation easement on his/her property, permanently restricting development on the land.

By placing an easement on the property, the landowner receives a state tax credit of up to \$260,000. The first \$100,000 is a dollar-for-dollar value; and the rest of the credit is a 40 cents on the dollar value. Typically the seller receives 80% of the value of the credit and the buyer pays 85-90% of the value, with the remainder going to the broker and to conservation organizations. Any landowner who cannot use the credit (i.e., does not have a high enough taxable income) can sell the credit, at a reduced rate, to someone else who can use it.

Reference for Further Information: Colorado Conservation Trust (CCT) Website:

http://www.coloradoconservationtrust.org/cctprograms/initiatives_taxcredit.php,

Phone: 720-565-8289, E-mail: coctinfo@coct.org. To access land conservation finance related articles including "Changes to Colorado's Conservation Income Tax credit Law" by Jay, Jessica E., see: <http://www.privatelandownernetwork.org/library/> and look under "Related Resources."

State of Maryland: Bay Restoration Fund

Description: On May 26, 2004, the State of Maryland [Senate Bill 320 \(Bay Restoration Fund\)](#) was signed into law. The bill created a dedicated fund, financed through a \$2.50 monthly fee levied upon wastewater treatment plant users, to upgrade Maryland's wastewater treatment plants with [enhanced nutrient removal \(ENR\) technology](#) so they are capable of achieving wastewater effluent quality of 3 mg/l total nitrogen and 0.3 mg/l total phosphorus. In addition, a similar fee levied upon septic system users is utilized to upgrade onsite septic systems and implement cover crops to reduce nitrogen loading to Chesapeake Bay. This Fund is administered by the Maryland Department of the Environment. The Fund also has an [advisory committee](#). Fees from wastewater treatment plant users generate an estimated \$65 million per year. In addition, a \$30 annual fee is collected from each home served by an onsite septic system. The total estimated program income is \$12.6 million per year.

Reference for Further Information: Bay Restoration Fund Website:

<http://www.mde.state.md.us/Water/CBWRF/index.asp>.

State of Minnesota: Capital Assistance Program

Description: Through the Capital Assistance Program (CAP), the Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance (OEA) provides grants to fund the capital costs of building solid waste processing and resource recovery facilities. Many other related projects are also funded. The CAP is open to local government agencies of cities and counties, and solid waste management and sanitary districts. The OEA encourages projects that involve public-private cooperation.

Eligible projects for CAP grants include solid waste processing facilities, waste-to-energy facilities, compost facilities for yard waste and organics, recycling and resource recovery facilities, and household hazardous waste collection and disposal facilities. More than 90 CAP grants have been awarded since 1985. During the 2005 Legislative Session, \$4 million in bond funds were appropriated for CAP funding.

Reference for Further Information: Capital Assistance Program (CAP) Website: <http://www.moea.state.mn.us/grants/cap.cfm> <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop>. For application forms and CAP Procedures Manuals call Mary James at 651-215-0194. The Office of Environmental Assistance can also be reached at 1-800-657-3843.

State of Montana: Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Program

Description: The State of Montana's Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Program provides funding for the conservation, management, development and preservation of Montana's natural resources. Administered by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), the program provides funding to government entities, individuals, and groups for a variety of projects including groundwater studies, irrigation rehabilitation, water and soil conservation, municipal drinking water improvements, wastewater treatment, forest enhancement, and renewable energy projects.

Financial awards issued through this program include: Renewable Resource Grants, Emergency Grants, Project Planning Grants, loans, and private grants and loans. Renewable Resource Grants awarded to state and local governments are capped at \$100,000. Project Planning Grants are limited to \$10,000. Emergency grants are awarded to government entities and capped at \$30,000. Private grants and loans are awarded to individuals and groups and are capped at \$5,000. Loans are limited by the applicant's ability to repay within 20 years. Grant applications are due May 15 of even numbered years. Loan applications are accepted year-round.

Reference for Further Information: Montana DNRC Website: http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/cardd/ResDevBureau/renewable_grant_program.asp. Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Program contact information: Phone: 406-444-6839, E-mail: Bob Fischer at rfischer@mt.gov, or Pam Smith at pamsmith@mt.gov.

State of Nebraska: Illegal Dumpsite Cleanup Program

Description: Nebraska's Illegal Dumpsite Cleanup Program was established in 1997 to fund the cleanup of illegal non-hazardous waste sites. It is administered by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The program reimburses political subdivisions for the cleanup of solid waste disposed of along public roadways or ditches. It also provides funding for the cleanup of waste that spills over on to contiguous private property from roadside waste sites. Through the program, items such as household waste, white goods, construction and demolition waste, and furniture are removed from the illegal sites and disposed of in permitted facilities or recycled. To finance this program, the Nebraska DEQ allocates five percent of the revenue from the tipping fee it charges for waste disposal at licensed landfills statewide. This generates approximately \$125,000 per year.

Reference for Further Information: For more information on Nebraska's Illegal Dumpsite Cleanup Program and a similar program in Kansas, see the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Website at http://www.epa.gov/region07/waste/solidwaste/illegal_dumping.htm. For additional information on the Nebraska program, see <http://www.deq.state.ne.us/>, and go to Ch. 5, p. 40 of the 2005 Annual Report to the Legislature. Nebraska DEQ Phone: 402-471-2186, E-mail: MoreInfo@NDEQ.state.NE.US. For additional information on the Kansas program, see: http://www.kdheks.gov/waste/illegal_dump_cleanup/Illegal_dump_letter.pdf.

State of Nevada: Financial Assistance for Drinking Water Systems Program

Description: The Nevada Financial Assistance for Drinking Water Systems Program, also called the "Assembly Bill (AB) 198 Grant Program," provides grants to purveyors of water systems. The AB 198 Grant Program is offered through the Bureau of Water Pollution Control, which is part of the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection. The Program is designed to help communities bring their water systems into compliance with Nevada State Health Board and Safe Drinking Water Act regulations.

Grants are made to water districts, counties and incorporated towns. Grant funds are used to pay for capital improvements to publicly-owned community water systems and publicly-owned nontransient water systems. These grants are leveraged. Grant awards are required to cover no less than 57% and no more than 87% of the eligible costs for the project. The rest of the project expenses are the responsibility of the grantee.

Reference for Further Information: Nevada Division of Environmental Protection Website: <http://www.ndep.nv.gov/bffwp/grants01.htm>. There is a staff directory on the Website.

State of New Mexico: Clean Energy Grants Program

Description: New Mexico's Clean Energy Grants Program, established in 2004, supports the development of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and alternative transportation fuel technologies. It is administered by the Energy Conservation and Management Division of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (ECMD-EMNRD). Grants are awarded to municipalities, county governments, state agencies, public schools (K-12), post-secondary educational institutions, and tribal entities throughout the State of New Mexico.

Capital projects funded by these grants are required to meet performance measures established for the program, including a 5% reduction in energy consumption in building projects or a 15% increase in alternative fuel usage. Educational and non-capital projects must provide one of the following benefits: a) increasing the demand for clean energy, or b) advancing commercialization and widespread application of clean energy technologies. The maximum amount of any grant awarded under this program is \$200,000.

Reference for Further Information: New Mexico ECMD-EMNRD Website: <http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/emnrd/ecmd/CleanEnergyBills2005/CleanEnergyGrantsProgram2005.htm>. Contact: Louise Martinez at the ECMD-EMNRD at 505-476-3310. Information on this grant program is also available on the Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy (DSIRE) Website at <http://www.dsireusa.org/>. There are also many renewable energy and energy conservation grant programs offered in different U.S. states listed on the DSIRE Website.

State of New York: Green Building Tax Credit

Description: The New York Green Building Tax Credit program was signed into law in 2000 to provide an incentive encouraging the construction of new buildings designed in a way that conserves energy and minimizes environmental impact. Green Building tax credits are offered to building owners and tenants who invest in technologies and construction practices that meet requirements spelled out in the Green Buildings Tax Credit program regulations (6NYCRR Part 638). These "green building" practices include water efficient landscaping, indoor pollutant source control measures, and the use of recycled building materials and energy efficient technologies. Owners and tenants of buildings such as hotels, office buildings, and residential multi-family buildings are eligible to apply for these tax credits.

Reference for Further Information: New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation Green Building Initiative Website: <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/ppu/grnbldg/#summary>. Natural Resources Defense Council Website: <http://www.nrdc.org/cities/building/nnytax.asp>. Information on Green Building Tax Credits in other states is available on the State Environmental Resource Center Website: <http://www.serconline.org/grBldg/stateactivity.html>.

State of North Carolina: Clean Water Management Trust Fund

Description: In 1996, the North Carolina General Assembly established the Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) to help finance projects that specifically address three principal objectives: 1) the restoration of degraded waters, 2) the protection of unpolluted waters, and 3) the establishment of riparian buffers. The CWMTF is a voluntary, incentive-based water quality program. Eligible applicants for CWMTF grants are: 1) state agencies, 2) local governments or other political subdivisions of the state, or a combination of such entities; and 3) conservation nonprofits. Priority for grants is given to economically distressed units of local governments. The CWMTF funds about one third of the requests it receives, with a total of \$535.4 million in grant funds awarded between 1996 and 2005. No matching share is required. Still, projects that coordinate with other programs working to protect waterways or adjoining lands are encouraged. CWMTF funds have leveraged over \$810.3 million in additional funds.

Reference for Further Information: The CWMTF is authorized under Article 18, Chapter 113A of the North Carolina General Statutes. For details and application information see the CWMTF Website at <http://www.cwmtf.net/>. Contact: Beth McGee, CWMTF Water Quality Advisor, Phone: 919-542-5261, E-Mail: beth.mcgee@ncmail.net.

State of Ohio: Water Pollution Control Loan Fund

Description: The Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF), a program of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), provides financial and technical assistance for public wastewater treatment works and nonpoint source water pollution control projects. It awards below market interest rate loans to public and private borrowers. Direct loans are made to most borrowers. Smaller borrowers usually receive indirect loans through a linked deposit program.

The projects that are funded through the WPCLF include the planning, design, and construction of wastewater treatment plants; wastewater treatments plant improvements and expansion, agriculture/silviculture improvements, and stream corridor restoration. The WPCLF staff includes engineers, environmental planners and project coordinators who assist communities in every phase of project development and execution.

Reference for Further Information: WPCLF Website: <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/defa/wpclf2.html>, Phone: (614) 644-2832. For technical assistance, ask for Pejmaan Fallah, or e-mail Pejmaan at pejmaan.fallah@epa.state.ohio.us.

State of Oregon: Truck Engine Tax Credit

Description: The State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) offers its Truck Engine Tax Credit to anyone owning a truck in Oregon who purchases a qualifying “cleaner diesel engine” for that truck between 2004 and 2007. The truck must be registered in Oregon. The diesel engine must be purchased in Oregon and have a model year between 2003 and 2007. Additionally, the engine is required to be certified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as emitting oxides of nitrogen at the rate of 2.5 grams per brake horsepower-hour or less. Tax payers may use this credit to reduce their Oregon taxes for any tax year beginning on or after January 1, 2005. The application for the tax credit is a simple one-page form.

Reference for Further Information: For Truck Engine Tax Credit applications and additional information see: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/msd/taxcredits/TruckEngine/truckengine.htm>. Contact: Oregon DEQ Management Services Division, Tax Credit Program at 503-229-6878. For information about incentives for reducing diesel emissions offered in other U.S. States, and about federal programs, see the Diesel Technology Forum Website at <http://www.dieselforum.org/retrofit-tool-kit-homepage/funding-a-program/step-1-identify-possible-funding-sources/>.

State of Pennsylvania: Growing Greener Program

Description: In 1999, the Pennsylvania Growing Greener Program was signed into law, providing nearly \$650 million to address the state’s most pressing environmental challenges. In 2002, the Growing Greener Program’s funding was more than doubled. More recently, in 2005, Growing Greener II was signed into law, investing \$625 million to extend the Growing Greener Program six years. Funding is provided under the Program for many different types of environmental protection initiatives, including abandoned oil and gas well plugging projects, cleanup and restoration of watersheds, and the construction of new and upgraded water and sewer systems. Counties, local governments, authorities, conservation districts, watershed associations and other nonprofit groups may apply for Growing Greener grants. The Growing Greener Program is the largest single investment to protect the environment in Pennsylvania’s history, amounting to \$1.2 billion dollars.

Reference for Further Information: To get a list of coordinators, other contacts, applications and other information on Growing Greener and Growing Greener II, visit the Pennsylvania DEP’s Website at <http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/growinggreener/site/default.asp>, or contact Growing Greener at: Phone 717-705-5400, E-mail GrowingGreener@state.pa.us.

State of Rhode Island: Aqua Fund

Description: The Rhode Island Aqua Fund provides grants and loans to fund projects aimed at improving the water quality of Narragansett Bay. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) manages the Aqua Fund. Aqua Fund monies are used to issue grants and loans to cities, towns, universities, nonprofits, governmental agencies, and private agencies. The goal of the Aqua Fund is to remedy existing pollution of Narragansett Bay and to prevent future pollution of the Bay. Funds are issued for projects designed to help prevent pollution to the Bay and its tributaries, such as wastewater treatment projects and urban runoff abatement. Grants are given for up to 90% of the costs of projects under \$500,000. Projects with costs exceeding \$500,000 may receive grants of up to 50% of total project costs. Projects must be in a location identified as a priority area (see Website). Since the Fund's inception, the Council and RIDEM have awarded over \$8.8 million in grants.

Reference for Further Information: Rhode Island DEM, Office of Water Resources Website: <http://www.state.ri.us/dem/programs/benviron/water/finance/aqua>. Contact: Lisa McGreavy at the Office of Water Resources at lmcgreav@dem.state.ri.us.